

ABSTRACT AMENDMENTS:

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

A ~~compact~~ locking block mechanism for a compact semiautomatic pistol includes a pair of forward guide rails, which are normally separate from the locking block. Additionally, the locking block includes transverse ribs on the sides of the locking block, which engage mating slots in the polymeric frame of the pistol and secure the block to the frame. ~~Additionally, the locking block includes a pair of forward guide rails, which are normally separate from the locking block.~~ The guide rails and transverse ribs are separated by a space or discontinuity on the side wall of the locking block. The guide rails include chamfered front and rear edge surfaces and arcuate, convex bottom surfaces. The above-mentioned features function to create a durable locking block that allows for the construction of a pistol that is more compact than prior art designs.~~to reduce stress on the polymeric frame and locking block caused by the forcible reciprocating longitudinal movement of the slide upon discharge of the pistol.~~

DRAWING AMENDMENTS:

The Applicant has amended the drawings. Specifically, the Applicant has added reference number 50 to FIG. 3. The specification as originally filed defines 50 as one of the side walls of the frame. The Applicant also has numbered the firing axis f with reference numeral 17. The Applicant has added the reference numerals 106, the transverse bore, 108 and 110, the sidewalls of the block, to FIG. 3. These features are described in detail in the specification as originally filed and do not constitute new matter.

With regard to FIG. 8, the Applicant has amended the drawing to include reference number 140, the front edge of the guide rails. The front edge 140 is described in detail in the specification as filed and does not constitute new matter.